

WEST DES MOINES HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MEETING

Thursday, June 12, 2014

Commissioners Present: Frank Harty, Ila Plasencia, Justine Morton, Bernell Edwards

Commissioners Absent: none

Staff Representatives: Althea Holcomb, Mindy Hotovec

Guests: Police Chief Shaun LaDue, Captain Cam Coppess, City Manager Tom Hadden

Call to order: Meeting was called to order at 4:10 p.m.

1. Approval of April 2014 minutes

- Ila Plasencia moved to approve; Frank Harty seconded the motion.

2. Opportunity for Public to Address the Commission

- None present

3. Annual West Des Moines Police Report – Chief Shaun LaDue and Captain Cam Coppess

- Chief Shaun LaDue said the West Des Moines Police Department recently went through a re-accreditation with the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement (CALEA). They received positive feedback from the assessors, and the department will be recommended for re-accreditation. Chief LaDue said this accreditation is important and plays a big role in their identity in the field of law enforcement. He said transparency is very important to the department. He also said they are required to publish their numbers and communicate the information to the public; presenting at these types of meetings helps the department meet those requirements.
- Captain Cam Coppess presented information from the 2013 Annual Officer Enforcement and Activity Reports for the West Des Moines Police Department. The report covers six areas: 1) annual review of biased based profiling, 2) use of force review and analysis, 3) vehicle pursuit analysis, 4) complaint, lawsuits and accolades, 5) early warning system review, 6) grievance analysis. Overall, the 2013 numbers were positive. A detailed copy of the 2013 Annual Officer Enforcement and Activity Report was distributed to meeting attendees.
- Ila asked how many minority officers are employed with West Des Moines; Captain Coppess replied that there are two at this time. Ila suggested the department implement more programs for youth as this is a good recruiting opportunity for minorities.

4. Chair Report

- Current packet information was reviewed.

5. Staff Report

- Althea reviewed the expenditure report ending May 31st, 2014 showing a balance of \$3,613.81 for the West Des Moines Human Rights Commission. Justine entertained a motion to accept the report as read; Ila moved to approve and Bernell Edwards seconded the motion.

6. Report on Human Rights Phone Line

- Frank reported no calls to the phone line.

7. Report from Commissioners on recent activities

- Ila assisted with the 10th Annual Festival Cinco de Mayo in Valley Junction on Saturday, May 3rd. She is also serving on the Art Center's "Day of the Dead" planning committee.
- Ila presented figures for individuals who have received Latino scholarship awards.

8. Old Business

- None discussed.

9. New Business

- Althea reminded Commissioners that Jay Sehgal has moved from West Des Moines to Clive and is no longer eligible to serve on the commission. A new Commissioner has been appointed and will be invited to attend the August meeting.
- Justine encouraged Commissioners to think of events where the Commission might set up a table for educational purposes. Bernell suggested the "Make Me A World" event in February; he will contact the event coordinator for information. He also mentioned "Juneteenth" and the "Multi-Cultural Fair" in Des Moines as possible venues for education. Althea questioned whether it would be worthwhile for a West Des Moines commission to be at a Des Moines event. Mindy Hotovec suggested the annual Cinco De Mayo event in Valley Junction, and Ila mentioned the Latino Festival, although she thought it might be cost-prohibitive. Commissioners also discussed setting up a table at the Valley Junction Farmers Market once a year. The subject will be discussed further at future meetings.
- Tom Hadden offered his support to the Commission.

10. Next Meeting Date

- The next meeting will be held on Thursday, August 14 2014.

Adjourn: Bernell Edwards moved to adjourn; Ila Plascencia seconded the motion.
The meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm.

Notetaker: Mindy Hotovec